and wife, Mrs Masuko Itano

Project I.D. No.4

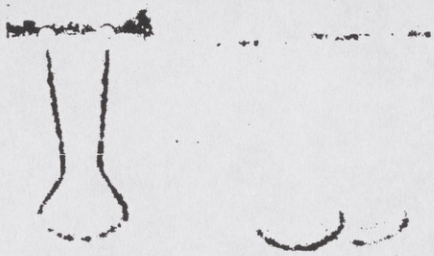
NAME: Itano, Masao DATE OF BIRTH: 1889 PLACE OF BIRTH: Okayama
Age: 82 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: University

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1906 Age: 17 M.S. S Port of entry: Seattle
Occupation/s: 1. House boy 2. Farmer 3. Insurance Agent
Place of residence: 1. Marin County, Ca(SF) 2. Mills Valley 3. Sacramento, Ca.
Religious affiliation:
Community organizations/activities:

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: None, but Itano's family went to Walerga *
Name of relocation center: Tule Lake, Ca. & Jerome, Ark. & Amache, Colorado
Dispensation of property: Friends/Church/Govt. Warehouse Names of bank/s:
Jobs held in camp: 1. Post Master (TL) 2. Assistant Director's Helper (IN JER)
Jobs held outside of camp: 3. Red Cross Worker (In AMA)
Left camp to go to: Chicago, Illinois (In June 1945)

POST-WAR: * Internmnet Camp: 1. Bismarck, ND 2. Roseburg 3. Santa Fe, NM
Date returned to West Coast: March 1947 (Sacramento, Ca.)
Address/es: 1. Chicago, Illinois (20 mos.) 2. Sacramento, California
3.
Religious affiliation: Christian Church
Activities: 1. 2. 3.
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death:

Name of interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe Date: 5/1971 Place: Sacramento, Ca.
Translators: Banard Fujiwara & H. Takarabe



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NAME: Masao Itano and Masuko Itano

Age: 82 years old (Mr. Itano)

DATE OF BIRTH: 1889

PLACE OF BIETH: Okayama Ken

YEAR OF ENTRY INTO THE USA: 1906 (17 years old)

MAJOR OCCUPATION: Insurance Agent

RELOCATION CAMP: Internment Camp
Tule Lake,
Jerome
Amache

Date of Interview: May, 1971

Place of Interview: Sacramento

Interviewer: Heihachiro Takarabe

Translators: Banard Fujiwara
Heihachiro Takarabe

Q; Where were you born?

A: Okayama Prefecture about 50 miles from Okayama City.

Q: Did you go to school after you came to America?

A: Yes, I did. I worked for a while as a houseboy to earn some capital to attend school. I entered Tamalpias High School in Mills Valley in Marin County. In 1913, I graduated from the high school and entered the University of California and graduated in 1917. In those days, students were few at the University of California and there were only 40 to 50 in the graduating class.

Q: How old were you when you graduated from high school?

A: I was 28 years old when I graduated from the University and finished high school 4 years earlier. You see, I graduated in 1917, and I was born in 1889. I was the only Japanese in the graduating class of the high school, too.

Q: Did you come here to attend school?

A: Yes. I wanted to enter school to study. In fact, when I left Japan, my plan was to return in 10 years after finishing college.

Q: Did you come to Marin County first?

A: I landed in Seattle and came down to San Francisco but

stayed there for 3 or 4 months. Moved to Mills Valley after I found a houseboy job and saved a little money. It was a few years afterword that I entered high school. I came over in 1906 entered high school in 1910, graduated from high school in 1913 and from the university in 1917.

Q: What was your major in College?

A: I was an agriculture major. Those days, there wasn't any job for a Japanese graduating from the University, but I was planning to start farming. I went back to Japan to look for a wife, after coming back with a wife, I started farming in Freeport Just opposite of today's Sacramento Executive Airport.

Q: Did you ever think of getting employment in some company?

A: No. I knew then that a job was hard to come by for a Japanese. If one wanted to work for a Japanese, there were jobs such as a fruit stand sttendant. There was a person who majored in commercial subjects and got a job at the Sumitomo Bank in San Francisco for low wages. There were very few that had jobs in those days because jobs were scarce. There were more that went back to Japan after finishing school due to the lack of employment.

Q: What kind of farming did you do in Freeport?

A: With two partners, we leased three hundred acres of land for $10,000 to raise _____,but my partners and I were so inexperienced that the venture was a total failure. After this sad experience, we came out to Sacramento to live. I did some interpreting work and some odd jobs to make a living for about 3 years. Then I went into the insurance business till the out break of the war, at which time I had to give it up because I was interned, first in Bismarck, North Dakota, then to Roseburng and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Q: Those were special camps, weren't they?

A: They were internment camps and different from the relocation camps where everyone else was sent. Those who were considered to be leaders of the Japanese community and dangerous enemy aliens were sent to internment camp. It wasn't like a jail but_____. For one night I was detained in the City jail, on February 16, 1942. In this town, there were three persons who got picked up the day the war broke out. One of them was Mr. Giichi Aoki and another was Mr. Rikitaro Sato, who was then the president of the Japanese Association and Jukichi Miyakawa, local manager of the Nichi Bei Shinbun (newspaper). I didn't get picked up until February 16 of the following year along with about 10 others. We stayed in town one

night and were moved to Silver Avenue, in San Francisco, where the immigration office was. Here we got together with those who were arrested in other communities and finally shipped out to Bismarck, North Dakota, by train. After a month's stay there, we were sent to Roseburg and then to SantaFe, New Mexico. After getting paroled from the interment camp, I joined my family at Tule Lake RElocation Center on July 4, 1943. We were separated from each other for about a year and a half.

Q: Were your children all grown up?

A: My eldest son Harvey, finished U.C. but he was not able to take the final examination due to the evacuation. Since he had maintained a recod of straight "A" all through college, they allowed him "A" grades without having the final tests.He was the first person in the history of the University who maintained a straight "A" all through the academic years, and received a gold medal for it. It was sent to him in Tule Lake. He was in Berkeley attending school at the time of the out break of the war, but he joined the family in Sacramento and went to Walerga Assembly Center near Sacramento and to Tule Lake in Northern California near Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Q: Was employment available for Japanese University graduate then?

A: No. Jobs were scarce before the war. So Harvey wandered about his major subject, though he liked science. He said that if he could graduate at the top of his class, then he might have a good chance for a job. He majored in Chemistry and also studied Pre-Med and finished at the top of his class. He sent application to many schools of medicine, was accepted by many schools at that time. He had a chance of being accepted by Northwestern University to further his medical training, but he was turned down because he was a Japanese American and the project was under contract with the Navy Dept. He was accepted to St. Louis School of Medicine. When he left the Tule Lake Camp, he was probably one of the first person to have left the camp.

Tsuyoshi was just out of Sacramento Junior College so he followed Harvey to St. Louis and enrolled in Washington University. Our daughter, Edith, went into University of Wisconsin from Jerome, Arkansas. Our youngest son, Masashi, went to high school in Tule Lake, Jerome, Amache and graduated from a high school in Chicago and joined his sister at the University of Wisconsin.

Tsuyoshi was drafted into the Armed Forces after finishing Washington University and was stationed in

Japan. After his discharge from the service, he enrolled at Stanford University to study law. Daughter got married after coming back to Sacramento. Masashi finished University of Sisconsin and entered medical school in Detroit.

Q: Being a University graduate yourself and having your children become a lawyer and doctors, did you have to remind them to study all the time?

A: I wanted them to have an ambition and objective, especially for the boys. For my daughter it was different. She went to New York to work in a hospital and became a dietician. For my boys, I guided them to go on to post graduate schools to become professional men.

Q: What kind of pressure did you apply to your children?

A: I never applyed any pressure, except encouragement, and I never helped them with their home work nor did I scold them to study. However, I did graduate from college and I felt that they should be able to go on to PHD or MD. So I try to install in them ambition to become PHD or MD.

Q: One thing good about Japanese was that they encouraged their children to go to school and even to higher education.

A: Yes, I agree. When I was farming here, we had Porchigese and Italians as our neighbors. They did not encourage their children to go even to high school. They said their children didn't have to go to school since they were going to become farmers. As for Japanese, everybody felt that their children had to go through at least high school. So there are very few Japanese who didn't graduate from high school.

Q: What kind of family in Japan did you come from?

A: We came from a long line of "Shoya" family who were village leaders, and my educational background in Japan is limited to 8 years of elementary and junior high, even this was not common then. I walked 4 to 5 miles each way to attend junior high. After junior high, I entered a commercial school where only a very few from our village were able to attend.

Q: Even though the Issei came here with a minimum amount of education, why do you think they insisted that their children get an education?

A: I think that, as much as the Issei wanted to get a good education in Japan, they couldn't. Because of this they wanted their children to receive a good education. As far as my family was concerned, we did not come from a rich family, even through we were of the old family and were looked upon as leaders of the village. My father worked in a bank

and his brother was a congressman from our district. The main reason why I did not get my college education in Japan was that I came from a family of 3 boys and 2 girls and to educate all of us was very expensive and a costly undertaking for my father. I was the oldest son, besides, my family was not rich and I could not let my father support me, since my father had to send other brothers to sch-ol and take care of my sisters. So I decided to come to America and go to school by myself. There were many students who came to America from my commercial school. There were about 10 of them. So I decided to work my way through school as much as I can. So after graduating from the commercial school, with about 12 of my friends, we decided to come to this country and work our way through school.

Q: You mean you didn't have to stay in Japan and continue your family line?

A: No, they didn't say that. There were some people who said that they will send me to further my education in Japan, but I didn't want that. I felt that I should be able to do it by myself. However, my second brother was able to go to normal school and then became a teacher. The third one went to the middle school and high school and then to a college. Then, my sisters went to high school, too. I was such a financial burden. So I didn't wont to depend on my father to go to school.

Q: What is your first most memorable experience in this country?

A: There were many students who were so disappointed and said that they didn't wont to work. But I was really determined to work and go to school, so soon after getting off the boat I got a jot as a school boy through an employment agency. I still remember that at San Francisco. My room was in the basement of the house and the sound of the rain hitting the sidewalk was so loud. A room like that is not fit to live in by today's standard. After a while I got a job in Mills Valley and the place was a lot better. I don't remember any hardship, may be because I was determined to get an education at any cost. I understood a little bit of English when I came over because I had 3 years of English at the commercial school in Japan. However, speaking English was very poor. I also could not hear what they said very well. Just like anybody else, I could not distinguish between R and L sounds.

Q: Before coming to this country, what sort of preparation did you make?

A: To get used to high and hard collar was one of the thing and make arrangements for the third class fare. The one way fare on the ship was about $50.00 to $70.00. I came to Seattle first and the next day left for San Francisco by boat. I think I left

Japan with about ¥100 ($50,00 at that time). I eventually returned the amount to the family in Japan before I started high school here. I worked hard because I wonted to return the money.

Q: What did you do after graduating from the University of California?

A: There was no job, so I went to Walnut Grove and worked for Mr. Matsumoto who had a celery ranch. There I made enough money to buy a fare to go to Japan.

Q: Why did you want to come back here after returning to Japan?

A: Even though I finished a University in agriculture, there were no jobs available in Japan as a college graduate. I could have taught English in School but rather than do that, I wanted to try farming here. So soon after we were married, we returned to America. I told my father that I had no preparation for wedding, but he insisted that I should get marry. So we got married even though I had no plan to support my wife.

Q: What sort of experience do you have in the way of discrimination?

A: I have had no personal experience. I heard that some people got stoned in San Francisco but nothing like htat ever happened to me.

Q: Do you recall anything regarding the Alien Land Law in 1913?

A: It did not affect me directly at that time because I was still attending school. We learned from our friend, an attorney, that we could get around this new law by setting up a corporation headed by a U.S. citizen, some Nisei, and lease out land to the Issei farmers. I began farming in 1918. At that time I could lease land for 3 years. So I could farm without setting up an corporation. After that they forbit lease, so they had to set up a corporation. It was after 1920, I believe. I myself quit farming before that. I farmed between 1918 and 1920. I failed farming, so I left it. It must have been after that. Most of the people who wanted to farm could not lease land, so they had to set up corporations. In it Nisei who was citizens, had to head the corporation.

Q: Do you have any recollection about the picture brides?

A: I heard of a few cases of someone else's picture was sent to their future bride and when they met for the first time, they didn't look anything like the pictures that were sent. The age difference between husband and wife was a big problem. Those things were the cause for the breakup of many marriage and some wives just left their husbands and took up with someone else. There used to be quite a few ads in the newpaper asking for the where about of their

missing wives. There were some women whose husbands were 20 years older than them. Those women were not satisfied, so they run away.

Q: Do you remember what happen when there were no more immigration after 1924?

A: Well, students were still able to come, thought they had to be high school graduates. Even those students could not come later on.

Q: What was your feelings when you heard about the war between Japan and America broke out?

A: I was playing golf that morning and it was a big surprise to me. In those days, I rented a room for my insurance business at 3rd and 4th on M streets. After the war started, I used to go to the office with some uneasy feeling but the insurance business was completely wiped out. Even then, I kept my office open and after February 16, the day I was picked up to be interned, my office clerk, Miss Arie Oda and my wife took care of the business until the evacuation. At this time we turned over the unfinished business to McClatchy Insurance Company.

Q: Waht was your feeling when you got picked up to be interned?

A: We livedon U Street between 5th and 6th Streets. They arrested my wife and myself, but later on the same day she was allowed to go home. We were quite worried

about leaving our children at home. The F.B.I. went through our house and even picked up a toy pistol. We were taken to the County Court house located on I and 6th Street. There were 7 or 8 Japanese who were also arrested. Mr. Aoki was arrested on the same day of the Parl Harbor Attack and was sent to Missory. I think Mr. Aoki was detained in San Francisco Immigration Office for a while. I was sent to San Francisco Immigration Office too and he was still there. Mr. Aoki was a special case. He must have been sent to Missory or Montana. From there Mr. Miyakawa and Mr. Sato were already sent to Missory. My wife somehow knew when I was to be sent to San Francisco so she came to the Courthouse to see me off. I remember telling her to let Harvey continue with his education. I remember this very well.

I stayed in San Francisco Immigration Office, then we were sent out on the guarded truck to Oakland and then by train. However, I am very satisfied by the fact that my sons were able to continue their education. The oldest son graduated from a medical school and then obtained PHD in physics and Chemistry. He is well know in the field of Chemistry. The second son became a lawyer, the third a doctor and our daughter, a dietitian.

Q: When did you return to California?

A: I joined my wife and family at Tule Lake Camp on July 4, 1943. We moved to a camp in Arkansas in September, 1944, and a year later moved to Amache, Colorado. In June, 1945 I went out to Chicago alone and later my wife and our yougest son joined me there. We stayed in Chicago 20 months. I worked in a printing shop and my wife worked in a sewing factory. We returned to Sacramento in March 1947.

Q: How did you feel when the war ended?

A: Well, I was rather relieved. Most of us were afraid and did not go out on that day. Mr. Aoki returned to Sacramento before us.

Q: Was your earning sufficient for your needs?

A: It was sufficient. About this time 3 of our children were attending Universities and the fund for their education was put aside before the evacuation. Since I was classified as an enemy alien, the funds were deposited under my son's name. So we did not have to worry about my sons and daughter's education. However, since I was interned, the money that I had saved in my name was not return to me, though it was not that much. The money that I had saved for my children as my being a gardian, was also not returned to us, even though I petitioned for it very hard. So my own must have been confiscated. I know Harvey's and Eadith's saving account was

not trturned to us because I had my name on it as a gardian. When did I go to Chicago?

(Mrs. Itano) We were there 20 months. You came back from the Internment Camp on July 4th, 1943. Then we left for Arkansas Camp on Sep. 1944, then we went to Colorado. From there you went to Chicago by yourself and stayed with your friedn. I waited till Masashi finished high school, and joined you (Mr. Itano). We both worked there till the end of the war.

Q: What was your thought when Mr. Itano was held in the County jail at the beginning of the detention?

A: (Mrs. Itano) I didn't know what to do. I was in a state of shock. I wanted to visit him and bring him some food but we were afraid to go out of our house and didn't know our way around. You (Mr. Itano) said that you didn't have lunch or dinner in the jail, didn't you?

(Mr. Itano) We were limited to 2 meals a day. Our meals were black coffee and bread. On an empty stomach, they tasted good. People who were there before us used to hoard the bread for a night snack, but we newcommers didn't know that the evening meal was omitted. We weren't prepared when they came to pick me up. In fact they took both of us to the county Courthouse. We heard later that when we were taken in, the agents brought out our blankets and

bed sheets outside of the house and shook it out for some hidden items. My wife kept saying that we should be packed and ready, but I had not reason to be picked up since I committed no crime. We were totally unprepared when they came to take me in. Later when they tried to deliver some stockings to me at the Courthouse, I had already gone to San Francisco.

(Mrs. Itano) I didn't know what to do. I worried about our children when I was taken in with my husband. They took me to the county Court house and I was very much afraid for our children. If they came home from school and found that both of us are missing, then they would worry. However, I had no choice but to obey. Luckly, they told me to go home. I think they brought me back to home. I didn't think I walked home.

Q: You start Insurance business right after you came back?

A: Yes, I did. I retained life insurance Agent Licence. So I could start my business right away. I did pay for licence fee even though it was during the war and I could not practice it. However, it helped me, because it was very difficult for any one to get licence right away. That's why I could begin it soon after I came back. At that time people wanted to buy an used car, but they could not get it. They used to go and look for used car, but we just could not

When we came back to California we needed a car. So we looked for a used car all over the place, but we could not find one. At that time people wanted to buy an used car but they could not get it. They even used to go to Detroit to buy old cars. If we get an old car, they it would not be reliable. We were afraid that it might not make it back to California. Luckly, my son was a doctor and he was able to buy a car easier than the most of us. So he ordered it for us from Detroit. Even then it took about one year. It was 1947 Chevrolett. It was bought in the end of 1946. People used to look at it because it was so rare.

Q: Mrs. Itano, I asked this question to Mr. Itano, but you know Issei worked very hard to send their children through school. They were very interested in education. Have you ever told your children to do home work?

A: No, I never said that. They never came to me. They might have asked my husband to look it over, but I never did anything for them in terms of school work. Sometimes they went to sleep earlier than us and sometimes they stayed up later than us. At that time there were very little home works.

One time one of my children got measel or something and stayed home from school. So I asked his teacher to let him bring his books home to catch up. However,

teacher said,"No. He didn't have to do it." and he would not let him bring books home.

Q: Whatelse do you remember from the past?

A: Though I was an enemy alien, I was not persecuted. There was enough food for us and we were well treated. When I was in Jerome, I met a white man who was interned in Japan. They used to cut up people like nothing, so I heard. It must have been very difficult for the citizens (Japanese Americans), but it couldn't be helped for us who were enemy aliens. There is another thing, it was very dengerous for Japanese to stay in California. Much hostility was expressed toward Japanese people. I know for fact that 2 persons were killed in Sacramento. So as for as I am concerned it was better that we were evacuated into camps.

(Mes. Itano) I think we would have been difficult to buy food even. At least it was better for us. Out Auto Insurance for Japanese people were completely canseled by companies.

(Mr. Itano) Yes, it was true. They just canseled them all out. Life insurance was not canseled, just anto insurance. So my business was wiped out. But I reopened my Agency right after the war till 1968. Then I turn it over to Jun Miyakawa.

(Mrs. Itano) It was the same with other people, too. Many of them lost jobs. People had to sell whatever they had very cheeply. However, the fact that the auto insurance company canseled insurance for Japanese was the biggest done to our business and also for Japanese people.

(Mrs. Itano) In Chicago I worked for a factory which made children's dress with Mrs. Ishima. There were many other Japanese worked there. Mrs. Ishima came back to Sacramento before we did.

(Mr. Itano) They returned a portion of the financial damage suffered by Japanese. It was only a very little portion of it.

(Mrs. Itano) We had lost more things than we could claim, but we had to show profe for them and it was very difficult to provide them. We had to show things like receits or something like that.

(Mr. Itano) People like strowberry farmers, they couldn't prove how much it was worth, and their farming equipments, too. There were those who received a lot of money, so I heard, but we just could not get much. As for the war, it was very difficult for Issei to endure, but I think it was rather beneficial for Nisei. They could not get any job in California.

However, because of the war, they went out all over the country. That's why Japanese were able to live all parts of the State and achive high degree of success. It might be that the war helped Nisei.

Q: Right now there are lots of Sansei who have radical ideas. They ask questions like why Japanese people did not protest about evacuation? How do you feel about them?

A: (Mr. Itano) I do not understand them. I don't know why schools cannot controle those students.

Q: You are talking about those radical students on campuses. I am talking about Sansei students who criticize Nisei for not standing up on their rights.

A: Well, it may be true.

(Mrs. Itano) Come to think of it, though, it would only make it worse. Shikataganai (it really couldn't be helped) as for Issei, there was no other way than to obey. However, there could have been other way for Nisei, since they were citizens. But we, Issei, were classified as enemy aliens and couldn't do anything about it. At the same time Nisei were too young yet to do anything about it either. At that time they were around high school age and they couldn't be left behind by themselves.

There were Nisei who cooperated with government. They were really hated by Issei. People like Tsukamoto, who was an attorney, was one of those who had a rough time with Issei. They thought that he was on Hakujin's (whitemen) side.

(Mrs. Itano) However, people in camps were in a peculiar state of mind. Those who try to look at things objectively were looked upon as traitors or Inu (dogs). My husband was not a very laud person and was a little older than the most of Issei and could see things a little more objectively. But some people talked ill of him because he did not attack American policy openly. So Nisei who were educated and understand government position were considered as Inu (dogs) or traitors. There were no persons who were killed in our camp. They did try to attack Mr. Tsukamoto, though. So he left the camp by himself and was joined by his family later. He was an officer from ROTC and was a very high ranking officer in the Army.

Q: Do you rember what happend right after the war at Parkview?

A: (Mrs. Itano) We don't know too much about it because we were in Chicago.

(Mr. Itano) The life of Japanese Americans here

became much better than that of pre-war time. We used to live in very poorly constructed houses. I don't remember a house which belonged to a Japanese family which was painted. One I lived in had no floor in Broderic. We worked very hard, too. However, things seemed to be very well with most of Japanese people. Before the war everybody had hardship, especially farmers.

(Mrs. Itano) My friend said to me, "Young people nowaday would not understand us. The life styles of now and then are so different that young people would not even able to complehend how it used to be. I can't even attempt to tell them. As for myself, after my husband and children took bath, I bathed myself, and then washed their cloths with the warm bath water, and hung them up. I had never gone to bed before 12:00midnight." The life in farms was very difficult.

(Mr. Itano) I don't think I suffered hardship as much as farmers. I had to stay in the office, though. I did farm for 2 years, but I didn't succeed. Now farmers have big houses, but before the war there was no farmer who had nice and big houses.

Q: When did you buy house first?

A: It was located at 1414-4th Street. It must have been

1924. Though we bought it, we weren't living in it. At that time Japanese could not own a house. We bought it though our friends name. We rent it to Nichibei Shinbunsha (News Paper Office). We lived in N Street, then we move to W Street. We bought these houses. We bought this house (on Robertson) in 1949, soon after we came back, I think. Takatsuki's built a house by borrowing a white woman's name. They tried not to go and visit the sight until it was built. But they had lots of trouble after they moved in. We didn't have anything like that kind of problem.

Q: What do you remember from Camp life?

A: I was in an internment camp and then moved to Tule Lake Camp. I worked for a Post Office in the Camp, then I also worked in a Red Cross office.

(Mrs. Itano) He was a post master. Right before we moved to other camp, we had to sign a daocument with lots of questions. Those who were angry against American Government wroght "No and No" all over. Those who said, "Yes" were treated very badly by "No-No" group. They were called American dogs. Those who were patriotic to Japan were sent to Tule Lake from other camps. So there were many problems in Tule Lake Camp. People were demonstrating openly in the Camp, thought it was after we left. Pro-Japan

people cut their hair and tied Hachimaki (head band) and run around in groups shouting Washoi-Washoi (heave-ho).

(Mr. Itano) Those people had absolute faith in Japan and they believed that Japan would win the war. They were listening to the short-wave radio from Japan and the news they received was disceminated in the camp by Radio information officer of their own. So Japanese broadcasting had never broadcasted anything which were negative about thier own Army. So Tule Lake people believed it and said, "Katsuta-Katsuta" (we won! We won!).

(Mrs. Itano) I don't know whether or not it was true, but those camp information officers would gather people and telling them what they heard over the shortwave radio. So those who were able to read English news paper had a gread doubt about the news they were getting in the camp.

Q: Mrs. Itano, Mr. Itano was incarsolated, so when you evacuated, he was no at home to help you. How did you manage?

A: (Mrs. Itano) Well, I had to clear up my house because it wasn't our house. So people who owned house leased it as it was while they were

in camp and suffered a great damage to the house. In any case, we didn't know what to do. Than a white family, Mrs. Miyasaki's friend, told us that they would keep our possessions while we were in the camp. Our piano was taken care of by Remont Presbyterian Church. They returned it to us after we came back. It was then located in downtown. We asked a piano mover to move it to the Church. They asked me if we were going to pay them,(which was about $20 or so) or the Church. They said that the party who borrowed the piano whould pay. Well, we paid it anywas because we felt that they were doing it as a favor for us. Mrs. Miyasaki's white friend asked me if those furnitures could be used by her friends. So we said "Yes", because there were many families who wanted to use them. Later on Government got a warehouse, so we asked people to send our things to the warehouse. We lost many things in the process. Many small things were lost, but big things came back to us like refrigirator or ironing board. The warehouse was located on "R" Street. When we were evacuated, our oldest son was in UC Berkeley. He was in the senior class and was the right before his final examination. It was decided that no Japanese were allowed in Berkeley, so he had to come back to Sacramento. He came back discouraged and said, "It's no good to be Japanese!" I felt very sad. When he was still in

he saw his fathers name and picture on a news paper as one of the internees. So he was shocked and came home with the newspaper . He said that he wanted to come back and stay with us. However, I said, "You can not do anything about the situation. Papa also told me to keep sending you to school, so you better go back to school."

He went to see white friends who used to workd with my husband, hoping that they might be able to do something for my husband. However, the time was such that no one would committ himself publicly to testify on behalf of my husband. He was very disappointed and went back to school, but he had to come back to Sacramento soon, without finishing the final examinations. However, his professors gave him the grade which he was getting though the semestet, so he was able to graduate as the top student in his class. The gold medal was sent to Tule Lake from the school.

We were in Walerga, waiting to be picked up to go to Tule Lake Camp. Those who picked us up were volunteers. The one who picked us up brought a big car and brought us to the auditorium. When we entered the camp, Dr. Kawahara, I think it was him, told us that Harvey became a Gold Medalist. He said that he heard it over the radio. Well, we

we were so busy trying to settle down in the terrible place, so we couldn't pay too much attention to it. However, Dr. Kawahara said, "It's not that bad place here, so don't worry too much about it." So I cannot forget the time. We received lots of newspaper clips about Harvey's Gold Medal. Many of his white friends send them to us, too. But, when we moved back to Sacramento, we sent them to Harvey.

(Mr. Itano) We still have some of it left here. He was accepted by UC Medical school, but then he could not go back to it. So he applied for Medical Schools all over the country. All of them came back with explanations like, "It was already full," or "They could not accept Japanese applicants". He received many of those answers. I really cried when I saw them. The only school which accepted him was a Cathoric School called St Louis Medical School. So he graduated from it. St. Louis School was very good Japanese people.

We moved 3 times during the evacuation time. We were in Tule Lake, and then moved to Jerom, Arkansas. There I worked as the Assistant Director's helper, translator. Then in Amache I worked in the Red Cross office. A Japanese woman was working there before me, but she left for Chicago, so I took over her job. The man I worked for in Jerome still

send us Christmas card every year. He is in Berkeley now.

Q: Why did you want to leave the Camp earlier?

A: Well, it didn't do any good for us to stay in the camp too long. It was a very easy life in the camp, but i worried about our children and their education.

(Mrs. Itano) Well, at that time many Japanese went to Denver, Colorado, and then they call came back to California.

(Mr. Itano) But Toriumi family are still in Chicago.

(Mrs. Itano) We moved with Rev. Nakamura, from Jerome to Amache, Colorado. Most of the church members stayed with him as he moved. We partitioned as a group to go to Colorado, but they sent us to Jerome, Arkansas. Then we went to Colorado. When we were moved to Colorado, they said that there were enough Presbyterian ministers in Amache, so they wanted Rev. Nakamura to go to Rohwer, Arkansas. Well, we members were very angry. I asked him if he really had to go to Rohwer. I also told him that the member of the church would like to move with him. You see, he was a very quiet person and he would not tell us how he felt about any given

situation. When I asked him, he said, "If you wish it in that way, then you should tell the authority. They will listen to you." So we said, "Then, let's go together. We would not want to part from you." Well, it worked out well for us. He was able to go to Amache with us.

From there, Rev. Nakamura came back to Sacramento to open this church (Parkview Presbyterian Church). They were very good people. He never said anything about what he did for other people. He really took care of people well. He even cut children's hair, too.

He then went to Cortez Presbyterian church, and retired afterward because of his health reason. Soon after he moved to Long Beach, he regained his health and began to work a half time. He was able to send his children through college. He and his wife worked very hard. He really took care of us, though he didn't say anything about it.

Q: Thank you very much for the oppotunity to talk with you. I really appreciate it.

A: Not at all.